



USDI Bureau of Land Management White River Field Office

Wilson Creek Transportation Management Plan Planning Bulletin #1

December 17, 2003

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White River Field Office to Amend Its Resource Management Plan Regarding Travel Management in the Wilson Creek Area

Why are we planning?

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) White River Field Office recently published a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* (see page 2) to let the public know that they are initiating the process to amend the White River Resource Management Plan regarding travel management in the Wilson Creek Area (see map on page 3). The purpose of the planning process is to identify the most appropriate strategy for managing travel within the area while protecting other resource values, providing for multiple uses, and improving the health of public lands.

Currently the Resource Management Plan directs the BLM to limit motorized vehicles to existing routes October 1 through April 30 each year on approximately 922,200 acres; Wilson Creek is included in this acreage.

Publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) marked the beginning of the scoping period for this project. The purpose of the scoping period is to identify issues and concerns for consideration during development of the plan amendment.

What has happened so far?

The White River Field Office Staff has already identified several potential issues. These issues are listed in the federal register notice found on page 2 of this bulletin.

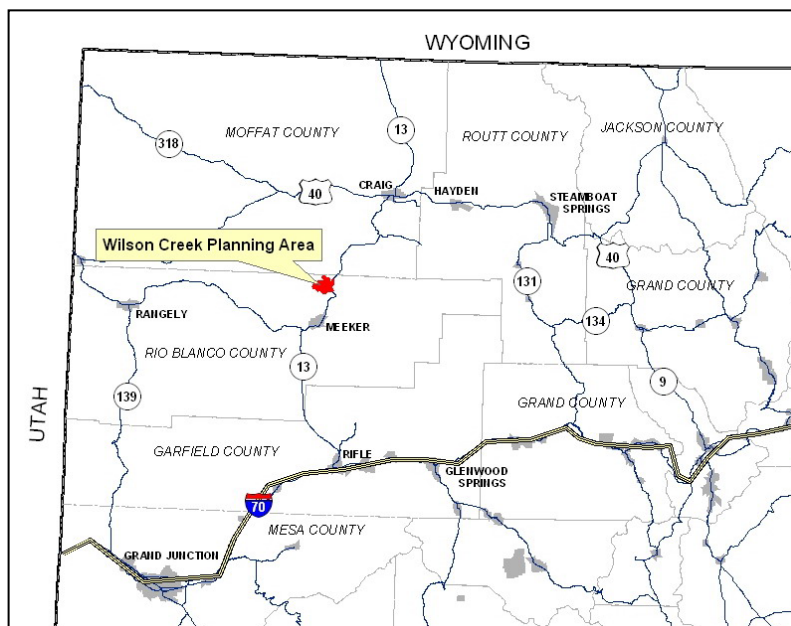
The public was also invited to provide information via a public solicitation of information letter found on page 5. This letter could be found online at the White River Field Office website and was distributed in the field during the fall 2003 hunting seasons with the aim of receiving information from those hunters that use the area but are from out-of-state.

What happens next?

The BLM must provide a public review of the Preliminary Planning Criteria (which can be found on page 4) based on the issues identified in the NOI.

A schedule of events will be devised which will include important planning milestones such as public meetings.

A preliminary set of alternatives management strategies will be developed and an environmental assessment will be completed by the BLM.



Notice of Intent as it Appeared in the Federal Register on March 26, 2003

14686

Federal Register / Vol. 68, No. 58 / Wednesday, March 26, 2003 / Notices

land use planning and management of public lands within their geographic areas. Public nominations will be accepted until April 21, 2003.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) directs the Secretary of the Interior to involve the public in planning and issues related to management of lands administered by BLM.

Section 309 of FLPMA directs the Secretary to select 10- to 15-member citizen-based advisory councils that are established and authorized consistent with requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). As required by the FACA, RAC membership must be balanced and representative of the various interests concerned with management of public lands.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Nominees for the Eastern Washington RAC must be residents of Washington. Nominees will be evaluated based on their education, training, experience, and their knowledge of the geographical area of the RAC. Nominees should have demonstrated a commitment to collaborative resource decision-making. All nominations submitted must include letters of reference from represented interests or organizations, a completed background information nomination form, as well as any other information that speaks to the nominee's qualifications.

DATES: All nominations should be received in the Oregon BLM State Office by April 21, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pam Robbins: (503) 808-6306, pam_robbins@blm.gov, BLM State Office, 333 Southwest 1st Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204.

Dated: March 20, 2003.

Richard E. Hubbard,

Rangeland Management Specialist, Acting District Manager.

[FR Doc. 03-7174 Filed 3-25-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-33-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CO-110-03-1220-PA]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a Travel Management Plan Amendment to the White River Resource Management

Plan (RMP) for the Wilson Creek area in Rio Blanco, and Moffat Counties, Colorado.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is preparing an EA and RMP to address management of roads and trails of the approximate 6,805 acre Wilson Creek area administered by the White River Field Office. The Wilson Creek Area is approximately 10 miles north of Meeker, Colorado. Early participation is encouraged and will help determine the future management of public lands administered by the White River Field Office.

DATES: The official public scoping for this planning effort commences with the publication of this notice. The public is invited to submit scoping comments to the address listed below for 60 days following the date that this notice is published in the **Federal Register**. BLM will publish exact dates, times, and locations for public meetings through media announcements, Internet postings, and mailings at least 15 days in advance of the meetings. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to the Bureau of Land Management, White River Field Office, 73544 Highway 64, Meeker, Colorado 81641 or e-mail Chris_Ham@co.blm.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chris Ham, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Telephone (970) 878-3845; E-mail—Chris_Ham@co.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs), snowmobiles, mountain bikes, and horses has greatly increased in recent years. These are important uses of public lands, especially OHV use in the Wilson Creek Area. They have also created several management concerns:

(1) The proliferation of new, unplanned roads and trails that have or will create unacceptable resource damage.

(2) Existing land use designations that allow cross-country travel within the Wilson Creek area during a portion of the year.

(3) Private land trespass issues created by land ownership patterns.

(4) Effects of OHV use on quality hunting experience.

The White River Field Office has and will continue to consult, communicate and cooperate with local landowners, recreationists, the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Committee and other affected interest groups to develop and design a travel system that will provide access for recreation, business and industry needs while sustaining land health standards.

BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the plan amendment and environmental assessment in order to consider all identified resource issues and concerns. Disciplines involved in the planning process will include specialists with expertise in outdoor recreation, rangeland management, archaeology, wildlife, hydrology, minerals, and soils.

Dated: February 5, 2003.

Kent E. Walter,

Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 03-7166 Filed 3-25-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-JB-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AK-910-1410-PG]

Notice of Public Meeting, Alaska Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Alaska Resource Council will meet as indicated below.

DATES: The meeting will be held April 28-29, 2003, in the Binkley Room at Pike's Waterfront Lodge in Fairbanks, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The public comment period will begin at 1 p.m. April 28.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Teresa McPherson, Alaska State Office, 222 W. 7th Avenue #13, Anchorage, AK 99513. Telephone (907) 271-3322 or e-mail Teresa_McPherson@ak.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 13-member Council advises the Secretary

Preliminary Planning Criteria

During its initial internal planning sessions, the White River BLM Staff developed the preliminary planning criteria listed below. Planning criteria establish constraints, guidelines, and standards for the planning process. They help to define the scope of the process, and estimate the extent of data collection and analysis. BLM may modify these preliminary criteria based on public comments. You may send written comments, before 13 February, 2004, to either the postal or email address listed on the front page.

Preliminary Planning Criteria Developed by the White River BLM Staff:

1) Planning Area:

The planning area is defined by the public lands and adjacent private lands specified on the map below.

2) Redesign of Roads and Trails:

Existing roads and trails which are contributing to resource damage or public safety will be reengineered or rerouted to reduce these concerns.

3) Private Land Owners:

Owners of private adjacent lands are critical participants in the planning process. They will be invited, along with other public stake holders, to work with BLM as needed and appropriate.

4) Transportation Planning:

The focus of the planning process will be travel management. While other resources and issues will be considered during the process, the plan amendment will address only decisions in the Resource Management Plan related to transportation and travel management.

Planning Area Map

